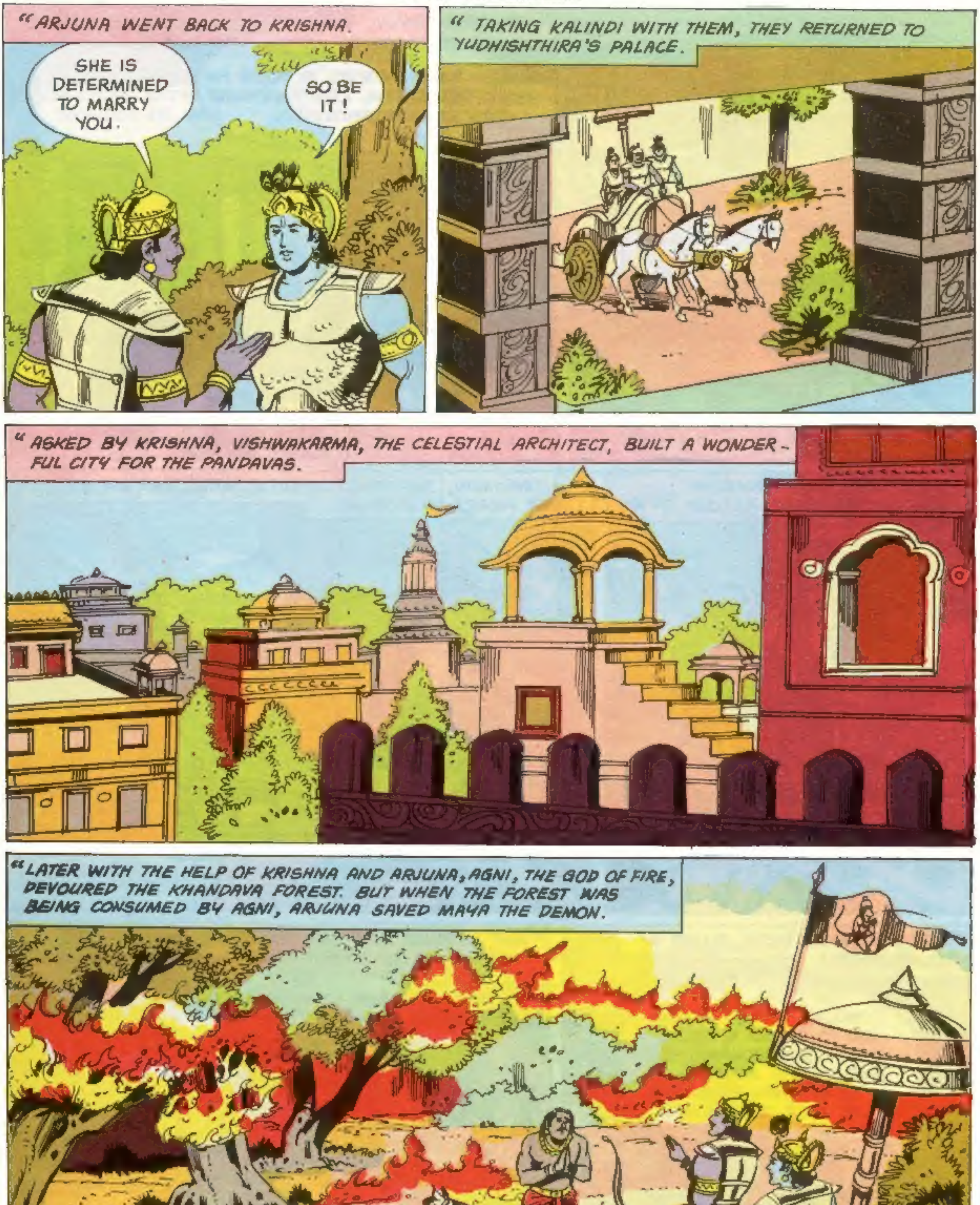
KRISHNA : THE VICTORIOUS



* SEE ACK NO.343


" KRISHNA WAS PERSUADED TO STAY IN INDRAPRASTHA FOR THE FOUR MONTHS OF THE RAINY SEASON. ONE DAY—
AAH! THIS HUNT HAS MADE ME TIRED.
LET US REST AWHILE, ARJUNA.
" AS THEY REFRESHED THEMSELVES —
LOOK, KRISHNA!
GO AND FIND OUT WHO SHE IS.
WHO ARE YOU? WHERE HAVE YOU COME FROM?
I AM SURYA'S DAUGHTER. MY NAME IS KALINDI.
WHY ARE YOU DOING SUCH SEVERE PENANCE?
I WANT TO OBTAIN LORD VISHNU AS MY HUSBAND.
MY FATHER HAS BUILT A HOUSE FOR ME IN THIS RIVER. I HAVE VOWED TO REMAIN HERE UNTIL I BEHOLD KRISHNA.


"ARJUNA WENT BACK TO KRISHNA.
SHE IS DETERMINED TO MARRY YOU.
SO BE IT!
" TAKING KALINDI WITH THEM, THEY RETURNED TO YUDHISHTHIRA'S PALACE.
" ASKED BY KRISHNA, VISHWAKARMA, THE CELESTIAL ARCHITECT, BUILT A WONDER-FUL CITY FOR THE PANDAVAS.
"LATER WITH THE HELP OF KRISHNA AND ARJUNA, AGNI, THE GOD OF FIRE, DEVOURED THE KHANDAVA FOREST. BUT WHEN THE FOREST WAS BEING CONSUMED BY AGNI, ARJUNA SAVED MAYA THE DEMON.



"THE GRATEFUL MAYA BUILT A BEAUTIFUL HALL FOR YUDHISHTHIRA AT INDRAPRASTHA.
"THEN ONE DAY—
I HAVE SPENT FOUR MONTHS IN YOUR DELIGHTFUL COMPANY. NOW I MUST RETURN.
"AFTER REACHING DWARAKA KRISHNA MARRIED KALINDI ON AN AUSPICIOUS DAY.
"MITRAVINDA, THE PRINCESS OF UJJAYINI, HAD SET HER HEART ON KRISHNA.
I WILL MARRY ONLY KRISHNA.
"HER BROTHERS WERE ALLIES OF DURYODHANA.
NO, WE CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO DO SO. IT WOULD ANNOY DURYODHANA. YOU MAY CHOOSE ANYONE OTHER THAN KRISHNA AT YOUR SWAYAMVARA.
"BUT KRISHNA, WHO HAD LEARNT OF HER LOVE ARRIVED AT THE SWAYAMVARA.
LOOK, KRISHNA IS TAKING AWAY MITRAVINDA!


"KING NAGNAJIT OF AYODHYA HAD A DAUGHTER NAMED SATYA. HE MADE AN ANNOUNCEMENT.
I WILL MARRY MY DAUGHTER SATYA TO THE BRAVEST OF MEN.
HE MUST BE ABLE TO OVERPOWER THESE SEVEN FEROCIOUS BULLS.

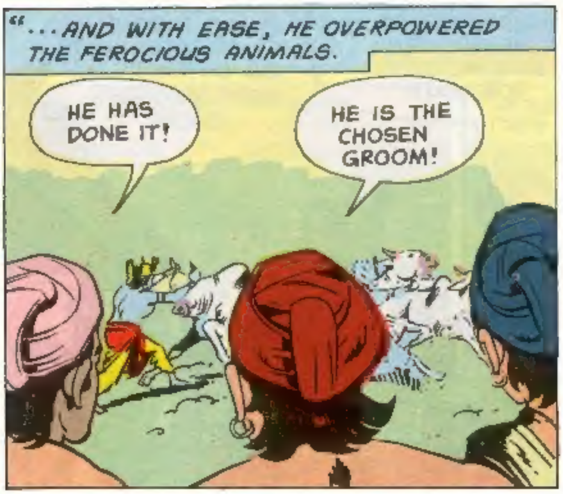

"WHEN KRISHNA HEARD OF THIS, HE WENT TO AYODHYA.
LORD KRISHNA IS HERE!
WILL MY DREAMS COME TRUE! WILL HE MARRY ME?
WE ARE INDEED FORTUNATE. I MUST PERSONALLY WELCOME HIM.


O LORD OF THE UNIVERSE! WHAT CAN A MERE MORTAL LIKE ME DO FOR YOU?
I WANT TO BUILD A BOND OF AFFECTION WITH YOU BY MARRYING YOUR DAUGHTER SATYA.


CERTAINLY. WHERE COULD I FIND A BETTER MATCH THAN YOU? BUT I HAVE A CONDITION.
WHAT IS IT?


"NAGNAJIT LED KRISHNA TO THE ENCLOSURE OF THE SEVEN WILD BULLS.
YOU MUST CONTROL THEM AND DISPLAY YOUR PROWESS.
I WILL DO IT.


"KRISHNA ASSUMED SEVEN DIFFERENT FORMS...
WILL HE SUCCEED?
SO MANY KINGS HAVE FAILED TO CONTROL THESE BULLS.


"...AND WITH EASE, HE OVERPOWERED THE FEROCIOUS ANIMALS.
HE HAS DONE IT!
HE IS THE CHOSEN GROOM!


SEE, WITH WHAT EASE HE'S LEADING THE BULLS.
LIKE A CHILD PULLING A TOY!


" THE WEDDING OF KRISHNA WITH SATYA WAS CELEBRATED WITH GREAT JOY AT AYODHYA.


" ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENORMOUS ARMY OF ELEPHANTS, HORSES AND SOLDIERS PRESENTED BY KING NAGNAJIT, THE NEWLY-WEDS LEFT THE TOWN.


" THE KINGS WHO HAD TRIED FOR SATYA'S HAND AND FAILED NOW SURROUNDED THEM.
YOU SHALL NOT GET AWAY WITH HER!
" JUST THEN —
OH, ARJUNA! THERE YOU ARE!
" LIKE A TRUE FRIEND, ARJUNA CAME TO KRISHNA'S AID AND WITH HIS BOW, GANDEEVA, DEFEATED KRISHNA'S OPPONENTS.
THERE! THEY HAVE ALL GONE. YOU CAN PROCEED IN PEACE TO DWARAKA.
LATER KRISHNA MARRIED BHADRA, THE DAUGHTER OF HIS AUNT SHRUTAKEERTI, AND LAKSHMANA, THE PRINCESS OF MADRA.
SO HE HAD EIGHT WIVES?
NO, BESIDES HE MARRIED THE THOUSANDS OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN HE HAD RESCUED FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THE DEMON NARAKASURA.



* MOTHER OF THE DEVAS.


"NEXT HE TOOK UP HIS BOW.
"AT LAST, HE HURLED HIS CHAKRA*...
"... WHICH DESTROYED THE BARRIERS OF FIRE AND WATER AND TORE UP THE DRAGNETS CREATED BY MURA.
"THE DEMON MURA WHO SLEPT UNDER THE WATER WOKE UP WITH A START.
WHAT'S THAT SOUND? LIKE THE ROAR OF THUNDER!
"IT WAS KRISHNA BLOWING ON THE PANCHAJANYA.

*DISC

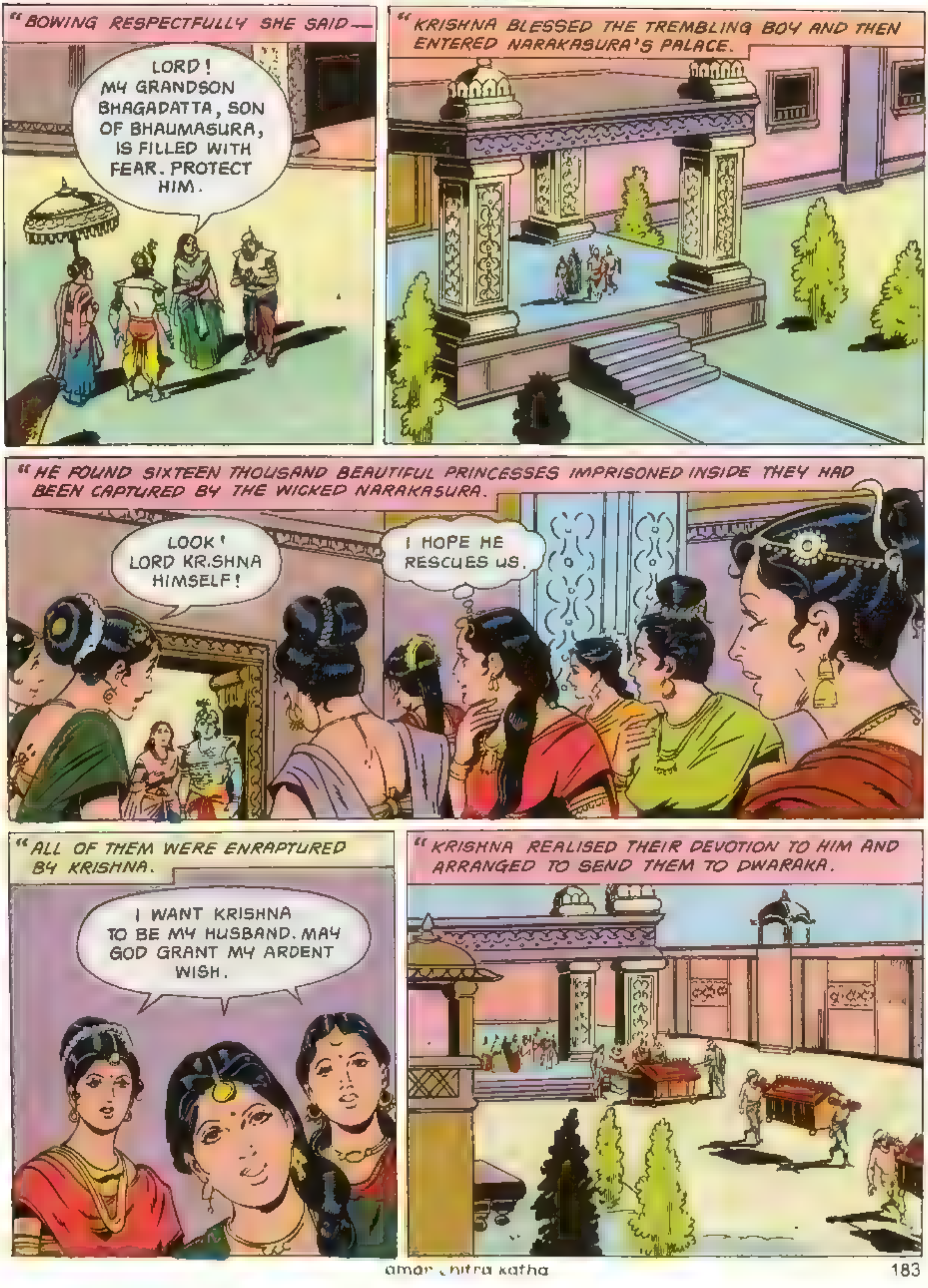

"MURA TOOK UP HIS TRIDENT AND RUSHED AT KRISHNA.
AHHH
"HE THREW THE TRIDENT AT GARUDA.
"KRISHNA CUT THE TRIDENT TO PIECES WITH THE ARROWS SHOT IN SUCCESSION...
"...AND AIMED A VOLLEY OF ARROWS AT THE FIVE HEADS OF MURA.
"THE ROAR THAT ROSE FROM HIS FIVE FEROCIOUS HEADS ECHOED FEARFULLY IN ALL DIRECTIONS.
AHHH
"WHATEVER WEAPON THE ASURA CHOSE, KRISHNA DESTROYED WITH EASE. THEN THE ASURA ATTACKED KRISHNA WITH HIS BARE ARMS OUTSTRETCHED.

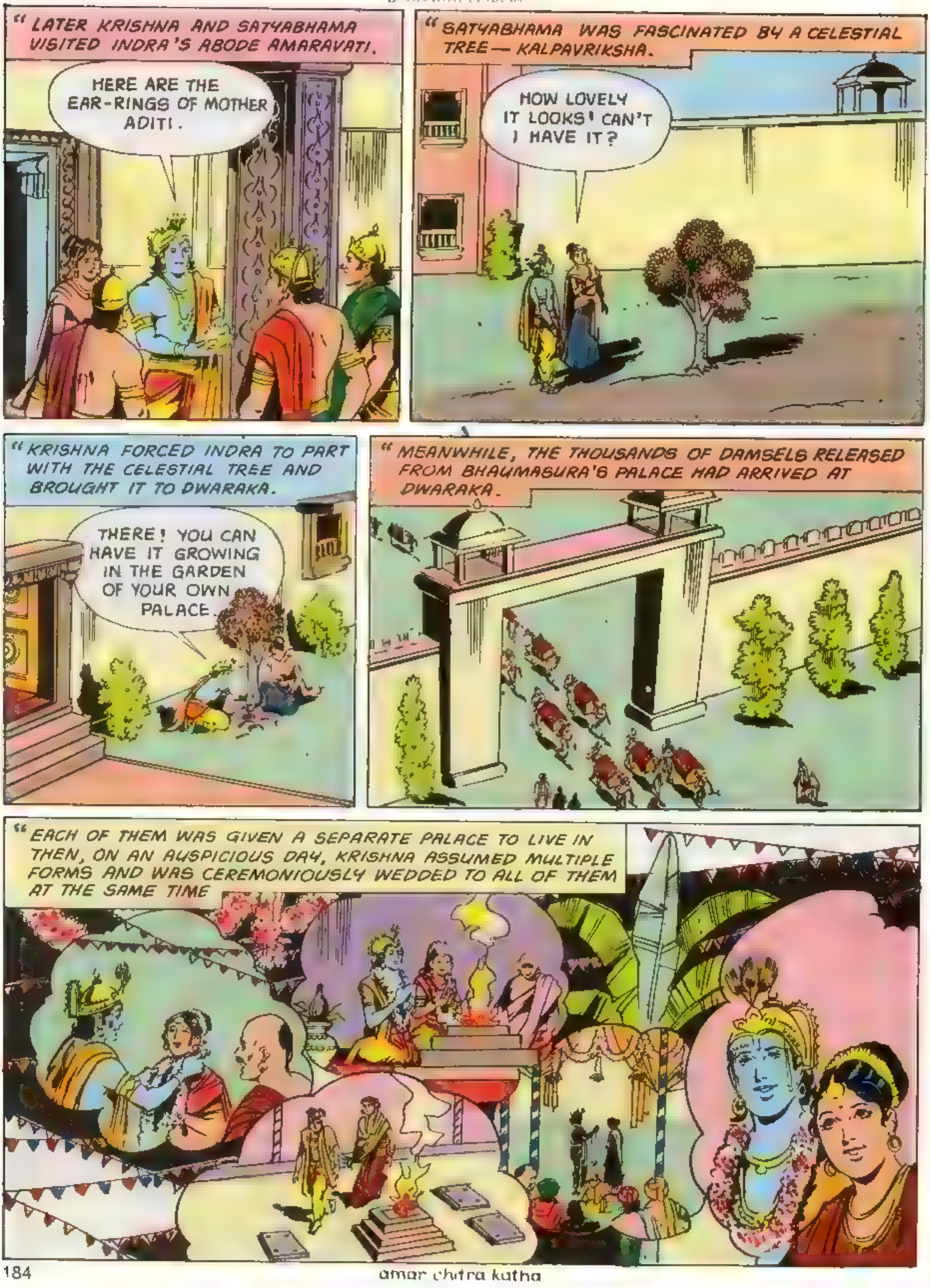

"PLAYFULLY KRISHNA RELEASED THE SUDARSHANA CHAKRA ...
...AND KILLED MURA.
" THE SEVEN SONS OF MURA ARRAYED THEMSELVES TO ATTACK KRISHNA.
COME ! LET'S ATTACK HIM WITH ALL OUR WEAPONS! WE MUST AVENGE THE DEATH OF OUR FATHER
" BUT THEY WERE NO MATCH FOR KRISHNA'S MIGHT. NOW NARAKASURA HIMSELF CAME TO THE FORE
HE HAS KILLED MURA AND HIS SONS HE MUST NOT GO UNPUNISHED.
" WITH HIS ARMY OF HUNDREDS OF ELEPHANTS HE SET FORTH.
WHEN I RELEASE THE SHATAGHNEE* YOU MUST ALL FIRE YOUR ARROWS AT THE SAME TIME
" WHILE KRISHNA COUNTERED THE ATTACK WITH HIS ARROWS, GARUDA SET UPON THE ENEMY WITH HIS POWERFUL WINGS TO ANNIHILATE THE ELEPHANTS.

* A WEAPON


"THE ELEPHANT ARMY COULD NOT STAND THIS DUAL ATTACK AND FLED
"ONLY NARAKASURA REMAINED ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
THAT BIRD HAS SCARED AWAY MY ELEPHANTS. I WILL KILL HIM WITH MY SHAKTI.*
WHY, HE DID NOT EVEN BUDGE! LET ME ATTACK KRISHNA.
"BUT KRISHNA WAS QUICKER THAN HIM AND...
...THE SUDARSHANA CHAKRA CUT OFF THE ASURA'S HEAD.
"WITH NARAKASURA KILLED, BHOOMI, MOTHER EARTH, APPROACHED KRISHNA
HERE ARE THE EAR-RINGS OF MOTHER ADITI AND THE UMBRELLA OF VARUNA, STOLEN BY NARAKASURA.

* A WEAPON


"BOWING RESPECTFULLY SHE SAID—
LORD! MY GRANDSON BHAGADATTA, SON OF BHAUMASURA, IS FILLED WITH FEAR. PROTECT HIM.
"KRISHNA BLESSED THE TREMBLING BOY AND THEN ENTERED NARAKASURA'S PALACE.
"HE FOUND SIXTEEN THOUSAND BEAUTIFUL PRINCESSES IMPRISONED INSIDE THEY HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY THE WICKED NARAKASURA.
LOOK! LORD KRISHNA HIMSELF!
I HOPE HE RESCUES US.
"ALL OF THEM WERE ENRAPTURED BY KRISHNA.
I WANT KRISHNA TO BE MY HUSBAND. MAY GOD GRANT MY ARDENT WISH.
"KRISHNA REALISED THEIR DEVOTION TO HIM AND ARRANGED TO SEND THEM TO DWARAKA.


"LATER KRISHNA AND SATYABHAMA VISITED INDRA'S ABODE AMARAVATI.
HERE ARE THE EAR-RINGS OF MOTHER ADITI.
"SATYABHAMA WAS FASCINATED BY A CELESTIAL TREE — KALPAVRIKSHA.
HOW LOVELY IT LOOKS! CAN'T I HAVE IT?
"KRISHNA FORCED INDRA TO PART WITH THE CELESTIAL TREE AND BROUGHT IT TO DWARAKA.
THERE! YOU CAN HAVE IT GROWING IN THE GARDEN OF YOUR OWN PALACE.
"MEANWHILE, THE THOUSANDS OF DAMSELS RELEASED FROM BHAUMASURA'S PALACE HAD ARRIVED AT DWARAKA.
"EACH OF THEM WAS GIVEN A SEPARATE PALACE TO LIVE IN THEN, ON AN AUSPICIOUS DAY, KRISHNA ASSUMED MULTIPLE FORMS AND WAS CEREMONIOUSLY WEDDED TO ALL OF THEM AT THE SAME TIME


"ONE DAY WHEN KRISHNA WAS SITTING IN A RELAXED MOOD WITH RUKMINI —
HOW DEVOTED SHE IS TO ME. BUT LET ME TEASE HER.
DEAR ONE! SO MANY KINGS, RICH AND NOBLE, VIED WITH ONE ANOTHER FOR YOUR HAND IN MARRIAGE. YET YOU REJECTED ALL YOUR SUITORS, AND SELECTED ME, WHO IS NOT YOUR EQUAL IN ANY WAY. WHY?
WHY DID YOU ACCEPT ME? SEE HOW WE YADAVAS HAD TO TAKE REFUGE IN THE SEA TO ESCAPE JARASANDHA. WE HAVE NO RICHES, NO POSSESSIONS.
SURELY YOU KNOW THAT MARRIAGES SHOULD BE AMONG EQUALS — IN WEALTH, SOCIAL STATUS AND AGE. WHY DID YOU PLUNGE HEADLONG INTO THIS ALLIANCE? JUST ON THE BASIS OF SOME FALSE PRAISE YOU HAD HEARD ABOUT ME?
AS FOR MYSELF, I KIDNAPPED YOU JUST TO HUMILIATE RUKMI, YOUR BROTHER.
"ON HEARING THIS, RUKMINI TREMBLED AND FELL INTO A SWOON.


"KRISHNA REALISED HE HAD GONE TOO FAR.
POOR THING. I HAD JUST MEANT TO TEASE HER.
"IN A TRICE HE GOT DOWN AND AFFECTIONATELY LIFTED HER UP.
I WAS JUST TEASING YOU. YOU LOOK SO LOVELY WHEN YOU ARE AGITATED.
ARE YOU SURE YOU SAID ALL THIS IN JEST?
I KNOW I AM NOT EQUAL TO YOU, THE LORD OF ALL WORLDS. BUT MY ONLY DESIRE IS TO STAY BY YOUR SIDE AND SERVE YOU ALL MY LIFE.
I TEASED YOU JUST TO HEAR YOU SAY THIS.
IN COURSE OF TIME, KRISHNA'S WIVES GAVE BIRTH TO TEN SONS EACH. I TOLD YOU THE STORY OF PRADYUMNA, THE ELDEST SON OF RUKMINI. BESIDES MAYAVATI, PRADYUMNA ALSO MARRIED RUKMAVATI, DAUGHTER OF HIS UNCLE RUKMI.
BUT DIDN'T RUKMI HATE KRISHNA FOR HAVING DEFEATED AND INSULTED HIM? HOW DID HE ALLOW THIS MARRIAGE?



"RUKMAVATI, THE LOVELY DAUGHTER OF RUKMI, HAD THE CUSTOMARY SWAYAMVARA.
SURELY! THAT PRINCE IS THE MOST HANDSOME AND CHARMING! I'LL CHOOSE HIM TO BE MY HUSBAND.
"RUKMI SAW THE GARLAND BEING PUT ON PRADYUMNA, SON OF KRISHNA.
SHE HAS CHOSEN PRADYUMNA, SON OF MY ENEMY— THAT KRISHNA.
MY DEAR SISTER RUKMINI WILL BE HAPPY. FOR HER SAKE I WILL LET THEM WED.
"THE KINGS AND PRINCES WHO HAD GATHERED IN THE HALL WERE ENRAGED AND PROTESTED.
"PRADYUMNA FOUGHT THEM BRAVELY, DEFEATED THEM AND CARRIED AWAY RUKMAVATI TO DWARAKA.



* COSMIC DANCE OF SHIVA


AT LAST! NOW I CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A REAL GOOD FIGHT.
" BANASURA HAD A DAUGHTER NAMED USHA. ONE MORNING SHE GOT UP FROM A DREAM.
DEAREST! WHERE ARE YOU?
" HER COMPANIONS WERE SURPRISED.
WHAT HAPPENED, USHA?
OH! I JUST HAD A STRANGE DREAM.
" CHITRALEKHA, WHO WAS USHA'S CLOSE FRIEND SAID—
BUT WHOM DID YOU DREAM OF?
I DON'T KNOW! I HAD NEVER MET HIM BEFORE
ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT HE WAS DARK AND HANDSOME WITH LARGE LOTUS-SHAPED EYES

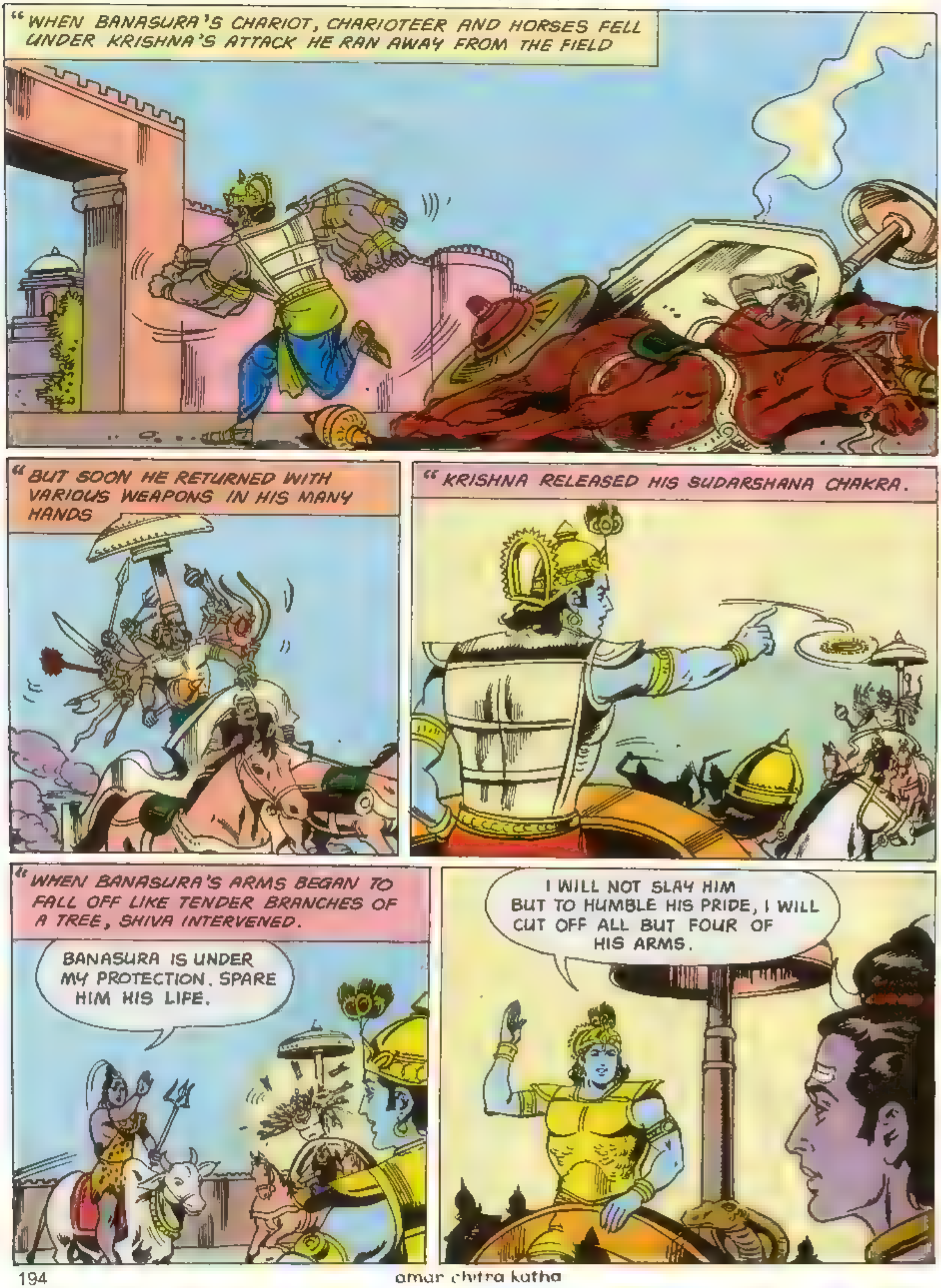

"CHITRALEKHA, WHO WAS A SKILLED ARTIST SET TO WORK.
NOW, I WILL DRAW THE PORTRAITS OF KINGS AND SAGES. SEE IF YOU CAN RECOGNISE THE MAN OF YOUR DREAM
IS IT ANY OF THESE?
NO, NO, NO.
"AT LAST —
AH! THERE HE IS THAT'S MY LORD
THIS IS ANIRUDDHA, GRANDSON OF KRISHNA. BEFORE LONG, I WILL BRING HIM TO YOU.
"CHITRALEKHA USED THE ART OF YOGA AND BROUGHT ANIRUDDHA TO SHONITAPURA FROM DWARAKA.
"USHA AND ANIRUDDHA SPENT MANY HAPPY DAYS IN HER HEAVILY GUARDED PALACE.


"AFTER A WHILE THE GUARDS NOTICED THAT USHA HAD NOT COME OUT OF THE PALACE FOR DAYS.
COULD SHE BE SICK?
NO! I ALWAYS HEAR THE SOUND OF MUSIC AND LAUGHTER FROM INSIDE.
AND A MAN'S VOICE TOO!
"THEY REPORTED THE MATTER TO BANASURA.
WE HAVE GUARDED HER PALACE DAY AND NIGHT.
YET WE FEEL A MAN HAS GOT INSIDE
"BANASURA CHARGED INTO USHA'S PALACE.
"HE WAS STUNNED TO SEE ANIRUDDHA CALMLY PLAYING DICE WITH USHA.
CAPTURE HIM! TIE HIM UP WITH SERPENT-BONDS.*

* NAGAPASH


"MEANWHILE, DWARAKA WAS PLUNGED IN GLOOM.
IT HAS BEEN FOUR MONTHS NOW SINCE ANIRUDDHA DISAPPEARED.
AH! THERE IS NARADA. PERHAPS HE WILL HAVE SOME NEWS.
"WHEN NARADA RELATED HOW BANASURA HAD CAPTURED ANIRUDDHA, THE PEOPLE OF DWARAKA WERE FILLED WITH RAGE
ATTACK BANASURA.
ON TO SHONITAPURA.
"KRISHNA LED THE ATTACK AND ARRANGED HIS TROOP IN A FORMIDABLE FORMATION.
SURROUND HIS CAPITAL!
"BANASURA EMERGED WITH AN EQUALLY LARGE FORCE. WITH HIM WERE LORD SHIVA AND HIS SON KARTTIKEYA.
COME! PRADYUMNA, YOU FIGHT KARTTIKEYA. WHILE I CONFRONT SHIVA. SATYAKI, YOU TAKE ON BANASURA.


"LORD SHIVA USED HIS POWERFUL CELESTIAL WEAPONS BUT KRISHNA REPELLED THEM WITH EQUALLY STRONG BUT OPPOSING WEAPONS.
HE IS USING THE AGNEYASTRA, I'LL QUELL IT WITH THE PARJANYASTRA.
I'LL USE THE JRUMBHANASTRA TO MAKE SHIVA SLEEP. THEN I CAN ATTACK THE REST OF THE ARMY.
"THE JRUMBHANASTRA MADE SHIVA SO DROWSY THAT HE COULD NOT FIGHT.
YAWN.
"BANASURA REALISED THAT HIS ARMY WAS BEING DESTROYED AND LUNGED AT KRISHNA.
"BUT THE HUNDREDS OF ARROWS RELEASED BY BANASURA WERE DESTROYED BY KRISHNA.


"WHEN BANASURA'S CHARIOT, CHARIOTEER AND HORSES FELL UNDER KRISHNA'S ATTACK HE RAN AWAY FROM THE FIELD
"BUT SOON HE RETURNED WITH VARIOUS WEAPONS IN HIS MANY HANDS
"KRISHNA RELEASED HIS SUDARSHANA CHAKRA.
"WHEN BANASURA'S ARMS BEGAN TO FALL OFF LIKE TENDER BRANCHES OF A TREE, SHIVA INTERVENED.
BANASURA IS UNDER MY PROTECTION. SPARE HIM HIS LIFE.
I WILL NOT SLAY HIM BUT TO HUMBLE HIS PRIDE, I WILL CUT OFF ALL BUT FOUR OF HIS ARMS.


"BANASURA BOWED IN GRATITUDE TO KRISHNA AND ORDERED THE RELEASE OF ANIRUDDHA.
"WITH USHA AND ANIRUDDHA, KRISHNA RETURNED VICTORIOUS TO DWARAKA WHERE THEY RECEIVED A JOYOUS WELCOME.
"ONE DAY, WHILE BALARAMA WAS AWAY VISITING BRAJA, KRISHNA RECEIVED A MESSENGER FROM PAUNDRAKA, THE KING OF KARUSHA, WHO WAS A FRIEND OF NARAKASURA.
MY KING HAS SENT A MESSAGE THAT HE IS THE TRUE VAASUDEVA. YOU ARE AN IMPOSTOR WHO CARRIES HIS INSIGNIA.
HE HAS ASKED YOU TO GIVE YOURSELF UP OR FIGHT.
HA! HA!
WHAT A SILLY MAN.


TELL YOUR KING THAT I WILL NOT GIVE UP MY DISC AND OTHER INSIGNIA. IN FACT, I WILL USE MY DISC TO DESTROY HIM AND HIS FOOLISH FRIENDS WHO MISLEAD HIM INTO THIS SELF-DECEPTION.
" AFTER THE MESSENGER LEFT—
COME! LET US PREPARE TO ATTACK THAT FOOL PAUNDRAKA.
BUT HE IS STAYING WITH HIS FRIEND, THE KING OF KASHI.
" KRISHNA LED HIS ARMY TO KASHI... PAUNDRAKA AND THE KING OF KASHI CAME OUT TO MEET HIS CHALLENGE.
LOOK AT HIM! HE IS DRESSED EXACTLY LIKE ME – WITH A CONCH SHELL, A DISC, A MACE, A DAGGER AND EVEN THE YELLOW GARMENTS! HA! HA! HA!
" ROARING WITH LAUGHTER AT THE SIGHT OF THE IMPOSTOR PAUNDRAKA, KRISHNA ATTACKED THE COMBINED ARMIES OF KASHI AND KARUSHA.


"THEN—
HEY! YOU PAUNDRAKA! YOU WANTED MY CHAKRA AND OTHER WEAPONS, DIDN'T YOU?
WELL, HERE YOU ARE!
IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS, PAUNDRAKA'S HEAD LAY ON THE GROUND.
" NOW KRISHNA TURNED TO THE KING OF KASHI. WITH HIS SUDARSHANA CHAKRA KRISHNA CUT OFF HIS HEAD ALSO.
" OFF FLEW THE HEAD OF THE KING OF KASHI. AND LANDED AT THE GATES OF HIS PALACE.
" SUDAKSHINA, THE PRINCE OF KASHI, WAS SHOCKED AT THE SIGHT.
WHY! THIS IS THE HEAD OF MY FATHER. I MUST AVENGE HIS DEATH.


"HE CONCENTRATED HIS ENERGIES TO FIND A METHOD OF REVENGE. ONE DAY, WHILE PERFORMING A YAJNA —
"THE FIRE FIEND THAT EMERGED RUSHED TO DWARAKA.
"THE PEOPLE OF DWARAKA WERE TERRIFIED.
LORD! SAVE US FROM THIS CALAMITY.
"KRISHNA BARELY LOOKED UP FROM HIS GAME OF DICE.
DON'T WORRY. I WILL PROTECT YOU.


"HE ORDERED HIS SUDARSHANA CHAKRA TO ATTACK THE FIEND.


"WHIRRING MENACINGLY, THE DISC SET OUT TO DESTROY THE FIEND.


THE DISK FOLLOWED THE FIRE FIEND TO KASHI. AFTER DESTROYING THE FIEND, THE SUDARSHANA CHAKRA WAS RESTORED TO LORD KRISHNA.
THUS ENDS THE SEVENTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF THE TENTH CHAPTER OF THE BHAGAWAT PURANA.